

Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing to strongly oppose the loosening of regulations on media ownership. The dominance of a few large media conglomerates like Viacom, Clear Channel and AOL/Time Warner already limits the news we hear, the music we enjoy, and the Internet sites we are exposed to. Every time one of these vast corporations swallows up another independent media outlet, the public debate, and therefore our democracy, becomes a little less vital.

You may argue that the proliferation of Internet sites assures diversity of opinion. Unfortunately, as any regular Internet surfer knows, the vast majority of major news sites are tied to traditional news outlets. If these newspapers and television stations become less diverse, the Internet will too.

America is at a crossroads. Our place in the world is in flux - the future of our nation is at stake. Now is the time we should be encouraging greater civic participation among our citizens, and more vigorous debate on the issues, not less. I urge you to support the vitality of our democracy by upholding the FCC's mandate to safeguard the public interest; please vote against relaxing the regulations on media ownership.

Sincerely,

Brad Rouse